

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO

Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E451_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Please provide details of the governance and 'internal' mechanisms set up during the flagship establishment process. What are they, what purpose does each serve and why were they put in place? What governance and internal mechanisms were in place prior to the introduction of flagship-related changes?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Establishment of the Flagships

With the introduction of the Flagships, CSIRO established the Flagship Oversight Committee (FOC). The FOC is a sub-committee of the Executive Team chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive. It is responsible for overall portfolio management of the Flagships, including making recommendations on resource allocation and investment, reviewing performance and general monitoring, as well as overseeing the operation of the Flagship Collaboration Fund.

CSIRO also implemented a new Program Performance Framework (PPF) in Flagships. The PPF provides standard planning and performance assessment tools, emphasising clearly articulated goals and the alignment of annual project activities to longer-term strategic objectives. The PPF also involves the setting of targets for both research achievement and engagement with delivery partners. Flagships are also required to prepare technology and engagement "roadmaps" to chart necessary progress towards their long-term goals.

Flagships are part of CSIRO's comprehensive risk management framework. A report on the Flagship initiative is a standing item on the agenda for each meeting of the CSIRO Board.

Each Flagship also has a Flagship Advisory Committee (FAC), whose members are largely external and drawn from relevant industry/stakeholder groups. These Committees provide advice to Flagship Directors on investment, research and technology transfer and act as advocates for the Flagships in various forums.